

COUNTY

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By Peggy O'Hare
The Brazosport Facts

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without inviting the two men to attend.

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The barge in question was docked at the Hercules shipyard during the weekend and was to be repaired on Monday, he said.

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Councilman Hank Lippold said a compromise appeared impossible at Monday night's meeting. "The bottom line is we've got to try to resolve this situation and make it tolerable for both sides," he said. "This conversation tonight's not going to solve anything."

Aquariums needed at Brazoswood

CLUTE - At least 15 30-gallon donated aquariums are needed by marine science students at Brazoswood High School so they can perform necessary studies of marine life this year.

Teacher Jean Loedeman said 60 more students are enrolled in her course than she expected, outstripping her budget's ability

to provide aquariums they need.

Students put together a salt-water aquarium at the beginning of the year, collect specimens and maintain them throughout the year.

Anyone who has an aquarium they wish to donate can reach Loedeman at Brazoswood High School at 265-6161 or at home at 233-4915.

BWA

Continued from Page 1A

Head pointed to the BWA's recent purchase of a one-ton, 4-by-4 diesel truck for approximately \$26,000, but Cameron retorted that item was not in the new budget. Cameron also argued the truck's purchase was justified.

"Six board members thought so," Cameron said to Head. "You make it sound like it's some kind of sports truck to tool around town in." Head admitted he was not present the night the board voted to purchase the truck, but added, "You could've bought a one-ton truck with a gas engine. The option on a diesel is \$4,000."

Pressed to further explain his comments in the press, Head said he did not agree with the amount of money allotted in the new budget for tools (\$20,000) and computer/office equipment (\$13,000). "Should this board believe the BWA has run since its inception

with no tools?" Head asked. "We bought at least one new computer for the office last year."

Cameron then cautioned Head that his statement is only an opinion. "What you've done is said one of two things about me and everyone on this board of directors - 'either you're complacent, or you're stupid,'" Cameron said.

"I guess I could take that as a threat," Head said. Cameron laughed and shook his head. "Why don't you sue me?" Head said.

"I don't want to sue you," Cameron said. "I want you to do what's right."

Head retorted: "I think what you're doing here is about as sorry as anything you could do."

Head claimed a list of questions about the BWA he directed to Cameron's attention in February were never answered,

But Cameron argued he went to Head's office that day and encouraged him to schedule a lunch appointment, but Head never called. "Next thing I know, I get a letter from Richwood," Cameron said, referring to a list of questions the city forwarded to the BWA about the board's spending.

After the meeting, Head said he strongly disagreed with Cameron's statement in Tuesday's newspaper that claimed the BWA has been underfunded since its inception.

Head said the BWA's customer cities were told a bond refunding done in September 1993 would create \$2 million in new money to solve taste and odor problems and provide funds for projects to alleviate corrosion and other water troubles. "If he thinks the BWA has always been underfunded, he has a short memory," Head said.

Head said the BWA also promised in 1993 to stabilize its rates for three years, but a year later the board raised it 6 cents. "I'm fully comfortable with what I said and what I believe."

The BWA board also split on the issue of employees and wages, voting 4-3 to limit the number of plant operators to 12 and to give a 2 percent cost-of-living increase to all BWA employees.

The BWA will give no merit bonuses based on performance during the coming fiscal year. The original budget had proposed giving the plant a total of 14 operators, but the BWA will have to pick with the 12 operators now on the plant's payroll and increase its overtime budget. Voting in favor of these measures were Shelton, Longoria, Hays and Head. Voting thumbs down were Cameron, Earle and Cadenhead.

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WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
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UP TO ANY* THREE ITEMS IN THE STORE

THAT'S REGULAR PRICED.
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PRESENT THIS COUPON TO

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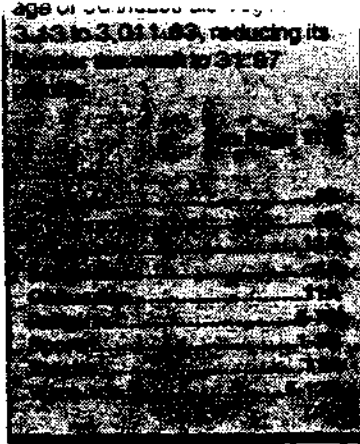
Good only on Wednesday, August 23rd and Thursday, August 24th. Discount applies only to regular-priced merchandise and is limited to JCPenney in-store stock on hand. If a price reduction is offered for the purchase of two or more similar items, the customer will receive the better value of the two (reduced price or 20% off). Not for use in Cosmetic Department, on Hanes® hosiery, Smart Value merchandise, Swirls® or Quaco® watches, Men's Huggo® Wrinkle-Free Cottons™, Marquis™ by Waterford® Crystal, Catalog or Catalog Outlet store merchandise, or in combination with any other coupon. Discount can apply to any three items only. As always, credit purchases are subject to review. Cash value 1/20th of one cent.

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Brazosport
FACT
Sept. 7, 1991
Vol. 1 No. 1
Page 1



Related pictures, Page 4A.

By MARK L. KING
The Brazosport Facts

ANGLETON — Angleton Independent School District officials and volunteers officially dedicated Kindertown Thursday.

Kindertown is located in the courtyard of the Early Childhood Center. It comes complete with a surrounding wall mural depicting street scenes and community buildings, and

a courtyard with fountains and signs.

"I think we can get a real instructional value out of it," Superintendent James "Herman" Smith said, adding that the traffic theme will work well with safety lessons. "We're very proud of it. I think it's going to be a Principal Alice Diaz said. P.T.O. really goes all out."

The Parent-Teacher Organization initiated the idea

Casale says politics behind sewer snafu

By PHIL RICHMOND
The Brazosport Facts

FREEPORT — When City Council two months ago approved a contract to install sewer lines to the remaining portions of the Bridge Harbor subdivision it was announced that Snapper Lane would be among the streets receiving the service.

But now a city official said the short stretch of road and handful of houses located along it is not included in the contract.

Acting City Manager Meryl Walters said Tuesday he is unsure how the error was made, but said officials are in the process of remedying it.

"That was my understanding. It was to be in there," Walters said. "Somehow or other it was scratched but it's being put back in there. Through faulty communication it got scratched."

But Bridge Harbor resident Bobby Joe Casale said he knows why the error was made.

"I know why," Casale said. "It's retaliation. I feel it's because I ran for mayor and because I instigated the lawsuit."

Casale helped instigate a lawsuit filed by three Hispanic residents seeking an end to the current at-large election scheme for city council members. City officials are in the process of complying with that suit by drawing four separate

council districts.

Casale has for years complained about the city's refusal to install sewer lines to residential homes in the subdivision and has lambasted city officials for the poor shape of city streets there.

But Walters said that's not true. He said the error was an oversight and that it will be taken care of.

But Casale said he talked with Walters Wednesday and was told that the city has no money for the project. When asked if Walters told him the error is being corrected, Casale said no.

"He didn't tell me that at all," he said. "I said I want the sewer done or we're going to get sued, not that they care."

Walters said Thursday that he told Casale in front of resident Jack Lee that the lines will be laid.

Casale said he contacted the attorney he called to handle the election lawsuit, Rolando Rios of San Antonio, and told him of the city action.

"He said if he had to he'll go ahead and take legal action," Casale said of his conversation with Rios.

Walters said the Snapper Lane sewer lines were not included in the \$230,000 contract awarded to John Mercer Construction Co. He said they will be added to the project as a change order.

He said the street was not included in the bid specifications and no company bid the lines.

"It's being taken care of," he said.

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Cleaning with sand

Windy day work irritates residents

By MARK L. KING
The Brazosport Facts

FREEPORT — Windy conditions and a sandblasting operation set some residents of Bridge Harbor Subdivision on edge Saturday.

Hercules Offshore Drilling Co. was busy Saturday morning cleaning barges with a sandblasting operation that property owners Bob Casale and Jim Pirrung said was depositing chemical residues in the Intracoastal Waterway.

"The wind has shifted 180 degrees now but this morning the wind was blowing right across the canal," Pirrung said Saturday afternoon. "It was really making a mess."

"I can't help but worry about the pollution to the canal and even when the wind is blowing in the other direction, about the wildlife in the wetlands," he said.

Casale and Pirrung said their concerns center around chemicals used by the owners of the barges. The barge surfaces are coated with toxic paints that are used to deter marine life, such as barnacles, from attaching to the hulls, they said.

HERCULES CLEANS the barges for various industrial operations on a contract basis.

"About 7 this morning they started sandblasting and it's not just sand, it's ... highly toxic stuff," Casale said. "They open these barges up to air them out prior to cleaning. They have to use gas masks to go down into those barges while airing them out, but they don't supply us, the residents, with gas masks."

"This morning there were big, large clouds of dust — about 75, 80, 100 feet in the air, and then the Intracoastal Waterway had big clouds of settlement on it."

Casale and Pirrung had said in January that they sat down with the company and discussed the effects the sandblasting operation was having on the neighborhood. They noted afterward that the company had worked harder to contain the clouds of sand.

BUT THE MEN became concerned Saturday when the company began operating in windy conditions.

A company employee said that Hercules frequently employs a windscreen to contain escaping clouds of sand, but that a strong wind had torn it down. They were using a monitoring device Saturday to gauge wind direction and would shut the operation down when the wind shifted toward the subdivision, he said.

"Sometimes the wind shifts fast and we can't shut down fast enough," he said.

"They shut it down when the wind is blowing this way, for

See HERCULES, Page 14A

Hercules

Continued from Page 1

which we're grateful, but they must think they're doing us some type of community service," Pirrung said. "And then they put that stuff in the canal."

The company employee said that Hercules was in the area before any houses were built close to the site of the company operation.

"THIS HAS BEEN an ongoing problem for 15 years and no state agency has cited them enough to make them clean up their act completely," Casale said. "Whoever owns those barges and Hercules are the culprits. They're sending those barges over there to be cleaned out, knowing what they're putting into the environment."

The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Galveston reported no environmental complaints Saturday morning in regard to the sand-blasting. Workers in the Coast Guard Marine Environmental Pollution Office were unavailable for comment.

Regents approve plan to erect statue of King

AUSTIN (AP) — A statue of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. will be erected on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin, officials say.

Car fire set by sibling, kills infant sister

ARLINGTON (AP) — A North Texas infant was killed in a car fire set by her sister, who was playing with matches in the back seat, fire officials said.

Katlyn Dawn Cromwell and her sister Jessica, 3, were left alone in the car yesterday while their grandmother had run an errand.

Officials believe Jessica, who was in the front seat of the car, crawled into the back with her sister and started the fire. Jessica escaped unharmed, but Katlyn, strapped in a car seat, was unable to get out.

The lottery initially set 45 percent of ticket sales as the amount for prizes and 35 percent for the state Treasury. Ticket sales also fund administrative costs, and lottery retailers get 5 percent as a commission.

In two new instant games begun last month, the prize levels are higher. Cactus Cash returns about 65 percent of the money wagered to winners, while Texas Grand Slam returns about 55 percent.

Welch said the idea is to learn whether offering more money in prizes will generate enough extra sales to give more profit to the state even if a lower percentage from each ticket goes to the Treasury.



Mallory Hatfield practices to a numbers song students memorized as

Stephanie Rapp, left, and Je Takami, right, concentrate on the r

Bridge Harbor residents turn gritty over blasting

By JOE DOOSON
The Brazosport Facts

FREEPORT — A contingent of Bridge Harbor residents is wrestling with the Hercules Offshore Corporation, complaining about sandblasting and alleged chemical releases.

But efforts to bring the feuding parties together have stalled.

A meeting set Thursday between officials from Hercules, the Texas Air Control Board, the city and Bridge Harbor resident Bob Casale fell through because of a disagreement about who should be involved in the discussion.

Hercules cleans and prepares boats on the Intracoastal canal, and is located a few hundred yards away from the upscale subdivision.

Casale said he and other residents have repeatedly complained about sandblasting grit deposited on their yards and strong chemical smells coming from the site.

But when he and three other Bridge Harbor residents arrived at City Hall Thursday to air their concerns, the meeting was canceled, reportedly because only Casale was invited.

He said he refused to stay by himself, despite having been told Wednesday it would be a private meeting.

"It's a subdivision issue. It's not my issue," Casale said. "It's between the city and Hercules."

City Manager John McKee, who arranged the meeting at Casale's request, would not comment. But a Jan. 29 memo from then-Fire Marshal Ron Gainer to the Texas Air Control Board said the city has never found violations at Hercules.

Larry Priddy, a section chief with the TACB, said Hercules has been cited on two occasions, once in 1989, for nuisance dust and again early this year for materials storage and record keeping.

"They did resolve those by putting in the proper equipment and addressing their record keeping," Priddy said.

But Bridge Harbor resident Jim Pirrung said it's partly a question of being good neighbors.

"I am concerned about having to put up with the (sand) blasting residue that settles on the yards," said Pirrung, who accompanied Casale to the meeting.

He said Hercules pledged not to sandblast when the wind blows toward the subdivision, but he often has to call to get them to stop.

"They really didn't fulfill that promise," Pirrung said.

Texas Water Commission investigator
See RESIDENTS, Page 2A

Inside

More clouds

Today, mostly cloudy and breezy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. High in the upper 70s. Southeast winds 15-25 mph. Sunday, partly cloudy with possible showers. Highs in the 80s.

See Page 2A

Stock Index down

A disappointing employment report and weak bonds pushed stock prices lower on Friday. The Dow Jones Industrial average fell 4.71 to 3,437.19.

See Page 3A

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Classified..... | 1-11C |
| Comics..... | 3B |
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| Dear Abby..... | 11A |
| Editorials..... | 4A |
| Religion..... | 5-7A |
| Sports..... | 1-2B, 4B |
| Television..... | 4B |
| What's Going On..... | 8A |
| World, Nation..... | 9A, 12A |

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The banquet was put on by the Professional Practice Council, which is made up of nurses from each nursing unit at the hospital, Degges said.

"I just want to say a special thank you to the nurses that work every day, holidays, weekends and around the clock."

Nursing Director Joyce Tagert praised nurses everywhere.

"This is a day of celebration for all the work they do all year long," she said.

will get under way at 8 a.m. for the run and 8:30 a.m. for the walk.

Other events include an open house scheduled from 9 a.m. until noon. Scheduled activities in the hospital cafeteria include: booth displays, teachings on self-breast examination, hearing

more events are scheduled for next week, including a senior citizens day on Tuesday from 2-4 p.m.

An educational program will be offered on understanding Medicare and other topics. Refreshments will be served to anyone who wants to attend and all activities are free.

Residents

Continued from Page 1

Jim Rice visited the site in late April to follow up on a complaint, and said he found the

company in compliance with state regulations.

"Based on the kind of business it is, I think the housekeeping was pretty good," he said. "I saw no merit to the specific complaint."

Although he acknowledged the site would be a nuisance as a neighbor, he said that could be controlled by a city ordinance.

"You have as much latitude at the city wants to take. The city can pass an ordinance to control pollution," Rice said. "The city's going to have to come up with a consensus about whether they want industry and residents together -- It's a question of land use."

Admissions

BRAZOSPORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Wednesday

Ima Lee Haynes, Damon
Sharon A. Kelley, Lake Jack-

son.
Rhonda Lee Olewinski, Lake

Jackson

Thursday

Emilie Matilda Orsak, Clute

Roxanne Trexler, Lake Jack-

son

Tonia Darlene Tullos, Dan-

bury

SWEENEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Thursday

Edna Mae Weather, Brazoria

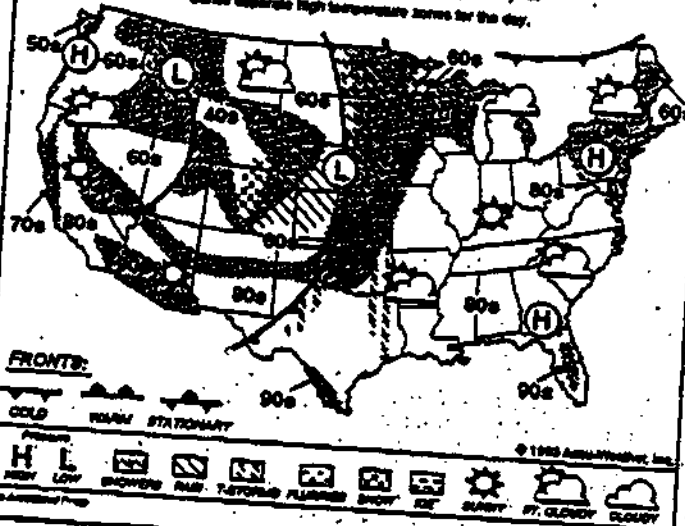
Sharon Strader, Bay City

Shirley Barfield, Sweeny

NATIONAL Weather

The Accu-Weather® forecast for noon, Saturday, May 2.

Shade separates high temperature zones for the day.



southeast
r Texas
ty and
scattered
storms.
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SUN will set at 8:03 p.m. Sun-
rise Sunday at 6:35 a.m. sun-
set at 8:03 p.m.

TIDES: Remaining high tide
today at 3:39 p.m. and remain-
ing low tide at 11:49 p.m.
High tide Sunday at 8:36 a.m.

MARINE: Port Arthur to Port
O'Connor and out 50 miles:
Today, south to southeast
winds 15-25 knots, seas 5-8
feet. Widely scattered showers
and thunderstorms. Bay waters
choppy to rough. Sunday,
southeast winds near 15 knots
with chance of showers.

West Texas increased.

A tornado watch was issued
for an area stretching from the
Big Bend to northwest of
Abilene, where a dry line was

interacting with unstable air.

West Texas was partly
cloudy, with cloudiness in-
creasing toward the Gulf coast.